

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 SY-05 PRS-01 OC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA FLASH

SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2276

AMEMBASSY DAKAR FLASH

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA FLASH

WHITE HOUSE FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3120

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCRAFT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: ACCRA 3119

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL I WAS GIVEN APPOINTMENT TO SEE
COMMISSIONER FELLI AT 1600 TODAY (APRIL 27). WHEN I ARRIVED WITH
LINEHAN AND BAXTER, FELLI WAS NOT PRESENT AND I WAS RECEIVED BY SENIO
R

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY ERIC OTOO, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY HENRY SEKYI,
AMBASSADOR TO U.S. SAMUEL QUARM AND DIRECTOR GEORGE LAMPTEY.

2. IT WAS EVIDENT FROM BEGINNING THAT THIS WAS NOT TO BE MEETING TO
TIDY UP REMAINING DETAILS. WITH GREAT EFFORT OTOO SAID THAT HE MUST
QUOTE WITH GREAT REGRET UNQUOTE INFORM ME THAT AT THE INSTRUCTIONS
OF THE HEAD OF STATE, VISIT OF SECRETARY QUOTE MUST BE CANCELLED
UNQUOTE. OTOO INITIALLY OFFERED NO REASON BUT WHEN PRESSED HE
MENTIONED ILLNESS OF ACHEAMPONG. (WE ARE AWARE THAT ACHEAMPONG HAS
BEEN INDISPOSED FOR A FEW DAYS WITH AN INFECTIOUS BOIL.) HE WAS
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ASKED IF WE COULD TRANSMIT ANY DIAGNOSIS OR PROGNOSIS OF THE CHAIRMAN

'S
ILLNESS AND HE OFFERED NONE OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT HE, TOO,
HAD HEARD OF BOIL. SEKYEI ADDED WEAKLY THAT HE HAD HEARD CHAIRMAN
HAND NOT BEEN IN OFFICE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

3. I ASKED IF CANCELLATION WOULD ALSO APPLY TO VISIT OF YUGOSLAV
PRIME MINISTER WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MAY 7. OTOO SAID THAT
THIS WAS STILL SOME TIME OFF AND THAT HE DID NOT NOW HAVE ANSWER
TO THIS. IN THIS CONNECTION I ASKED WHAT THIS DID TO GHANA'S
NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY, ALSO BEARING IN MIND, BUT NOT STATING,
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIETS HERE OF WHICH BOTH WE AND MFA ARE
AWARE. (WE HAVE LEARNED SINCE EARLIER TELEGRAM THAT SOVIET
AMBASSADOR BERNOV WAS RUMORED TO HAVE SEEN ACHEAMPONG
YESTERDAY.)

4. I ASKED IF PRESS HAD YET BEEN TOLD AND HE SAID IT HAD NOT
AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN A RELEASE WOULD BE MADE. I SAID
THAT I WOULD BE REQUIRED, OF COURSE, TO INFORM THE SECRETARY
IMMEDIATELY AND THAT IT WOULD BE LIKELY THAT NEWS WOULD APPEAR
FROM KINSHASA SHORTLY. HE ASKED THAT WE DELAY AND I SAID THAT I
SAW NO REASON TO DO SO AND WOULD NOT SO RECOMMEND TO THE
SECRETARY.

5. OTOO MADE POINT STRONGLY THAT COMMISSIONER FELLI WAS
DISTRESSED BY CANCELLATION AND IMPLIED (BUT ONLY IMPLIED) THAT
HIS ABSENCE WAS A RESULT OF HIS MEETING ELSEWHERE, PRESUMABLY
TO SEE IF SHOCK OF CANCELLATION COULD BE ABATED. IT WAS CLEARLY
EVIDENT THAT OTOO AND THOSE WITH HIM WERE UNHAPPY AT
DECISION AS THEY, SURELY MORE THAN ACHEAMPONG, UNDERSTAND THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUDDEN AND UNTIMELY CANCELLATION FOR US-
GHANA RELATIONS AND FOR PROGRAMS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO
GHANA.

6. I ADJOURNED MEETING QUICKLY TO LEAVE FOR CHANCERY. LAMPTEY
AND QUARM FOLLOWED US OUT AND (ALMOST TEARFULLY) BEGGED THAT I TRY
TO SEE ACHEAMPONG THROUGH MEANS OF TELEPHONING AMBASSADOR DEBRAH
(WHO IS SECRETARY TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL). I DEMURRED, SAYING
THAT IF GOG HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO CONVEY TO ME I WOULD BE
AT MY OFFICE AND COULD BE CALLED. I DID AGREE TO HOLD MESSAGE TWENTY
MINUTES WHILE MFA ATTEMPTED TO REACH DEBRAH. I HAVE SINCE BEEN
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INFORMED ACHEAMPONG IS TOO ILL TO SEE ME AT THIS TIME.

7. COMMENT: I FIND IT EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT ACHEAMPONG'
S
ILLNESS AS REASON FOR CANCELLATION. SUCH ILLNESS MIGHT HAVE CANCELLED
PART OF PROGRAM WHICH WAS TO HAVE INCLUDED ACHEAMPONG PERSONALLY BUT
THERE IS NO CLEAR REASON FOR OTHER PORTIONS BEING CUT OUT. IT SEEMS
TO ME THAT GHANA HAS KNUCKLED UNDER TO SOVIET AND STUDENT AND OTHER

DOMESTIC CRITICISM AND PRESSURE TO KEEP KISSINGER OUT OF GHANA.
ACEHAMPOG IS GIVEN TO SNAP DECISION OFTEN BASED ON HIS LAST
CONVERSATION AND/OR ADVICE FROM SOOTHSAYERS.

8. ACTION RECOMMENDED: I BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD ISSUE ORDERS
IMMEDIATELY FOR MY TEMPORARY RECALL ON CONSULTATION IN THE FACE OF
WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE SHARP REBUFF. I FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT WE
REVIEW CAREFULLY ANY NEW PROGRAMS WHICH ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION
INCLUDING THE MIDAD AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. I WOULD EXPECT IN
WASHINGTON TO HAVE FULL DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONDUCT OF OUR FUTURE
RELATIONS WITH GHANA.

9. PRESS RECOMMENDATION: I SUGGEST THAT STATEMENT BE ISSUED BY
SECRETARY'S PARTY SIMPLY INDICATING THAT WE HAVE BEEN
INFORMED BY THE GOG THAT VISIT TO GHANA HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

10. I DEEPLY REGRET THIS EMBARRASSMENT TO YOU AND TO THE
UNITED STATES.
BLACK

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